AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Camera apparatus comprising an electronic camera producing an image signal, a user operable picture taking control for selectively activating the electronic camera to take pictures, and an additional physically or mechanically operable user control for receiving an input from a user and for generating, in response to the input from the user, a saliency signal that (a) can change in value between at least three different discrete values while the image signal is being produced; or (b) can have values that are continuously variable while the image signal is being produced, a circuit for providing a maximum value for the saliency signal contemporaneously with activation of the picture taking control, and a memory arranged for storing the image signal and the saliency signal, operating of at least a part of the camera apparatus while the electronic camera is activated to take pictures being arranged to be controlled in response to the saliency signal, the operation in response to the saliency signal being in addition to recording the saliency signal in the memory.

2. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said part includes compression circuitry for receiving the image signals and for compressing the image signals to an extent determined by the saliency signal.

3. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said part includes a buffer for receiving said image signal, the buffer having a capacity arranged to be controlled by the value of the saliency signal during operation of the camera apparatus.

4. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said part includes image selection circuitry for receiving the saliency and image signals and for selectively passing ones of said image signals as determined by said saliency signal.

5. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said part comprises the memory, the memory including management circuitry arranged to be response to the saliency signal for selectively retaining in said memory images associated with higher saliency levels in preference to images with lower saliency levels.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said part comprises the memory including management circuitry arranged to be responsive to the saliency signal for selectively retaining in said memory images associated with higher saliency levels in preference to images with lower saliency levels.

8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, further including a user operable control for picture taking control of the electronic camera.

11. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user control includes a normal picture taking control on the electronic camera.

12. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising at least one further physically or mechanically operable user control for generating a corresponding related saliency signal.

13. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising saliency circuitry for combining said saliency signals to form a complex saliency signal, the complex saliency signal being the saliency signal for controlling at least a part of the electronic camera and the saliency signal the memory is arranged to store.

14. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising saliency circuitry for generating an image related saliency signal in response to the image signal.

15. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising saliency circuitry for combining said saliency signals to form a complex saliency signal, the complex saliency signal being the saliency signal for controlling at least a part of the electronic camera and the saliency signal the memory is arranged to store.

16. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, further including circuitry for incorporating said saliency signal in each of said image signals.

17. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user control is part of the body of the electric camera or is physically attached to the body of the electronic camera.

18. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user control is a remote control for communicating with the electronic camera.

19. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user control comprises a physically movable control member and a sensor arranged to be responsive to movement of the control member.

20. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the user control comprises a pressure or force sensing transducer for deriving the saliency signal that can have values that are continuously variable..

21. (Currently Amended) Camera apparatus comprising an electronic camera for producing an image signal, a physically or mechanically operable user control for receiving an

input from a user and for generating, in response to the input from the user, a saliency signal that (a) can change in value between at least three different discrete values while the image signal is being produced, or (b) can have values that are continuously variable while the image signal is being produced, a circuit for providing a maximum value for the saliency signal contemporaneously with activation of the picture taking control, and a memory arranged for storing the image signal and the saliency signal, operation of at least a part of the camera apparatus while the electronic camera is activated to take pictures being arranged to be controlled in response to the saliency signal, the operation in response to the saliency signal being in addition to recording the saliency signal in the memory.

22. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said part includes compression circuitry for receiving the said image signals and for compressing the image signals to an extent determined by the saliency signal.

23. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said part includes image selection circuitry for receiving the saliency and image signals and for selectively passing ones of said image signals as determined by said saliency signal.

24. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said part includes a buffer for receiving said image signal, the buffer capacity being controlled by the value of the saliency signal during operation of the camera apparatus.

25. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said part comprises a memory, the memory including management circuitry arranged to be responsive to the saliency signal for selectively retaining images associated with higher saliency levels in said memory in preference to images with lower saliency levels.

26-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, further including a user operable for picture taking control of the electronic camera.

29. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the user control includes a normal picture taking control on the electronic camera.

30. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising at least one further physically or mechanically operable user control for generating a corresponding related saliency signal.

31. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising saliency circuitry for combining said saliency signals to form a complex saliency signal, the complex saliency signal being the saliency signal for controlling at least a part of the electronic camera and the saliency signal the memory is arranged to store.

32. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising saliency circuitry for generating an image related saliency signal in response to the image signal, the complex saliency signal being the saliency signal for controlling at least a part of the electronic camera and the saliency signal the memory is arranged to store.

33. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising saliency circuitry for combining said saliency signals to form a complex saliency signal.

34. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, further including circuitry for incorporating said saliency signal in each of said image signals.

35. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the user control is part of a body of the electronic camera or is physically attached to the electronic camera.

36. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the user control includes a remote control for communicating with the electronic camera.

37. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the user control comprises a physically movable control member and a sensor arranged to be responsive to movement of the control member.

38. (Previously Presented) Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the user control comprises a pressure or force sensing transducer for deriving the saliency signal that can have values that are continuously variable.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) An imaging system comprising an electronic camera for producing an image signal, at least two physically or mechanically operable user controls, each of the user controls being arranged for receiving an input from a user and for generating first and second saliency signals while the image signal is being produced, and saliency circuitry for combining said first and second saliency signals to form a complex saliency signal, one of the saliency signals being a signal that (a) can change in value between at least three different discrete values while the image signal is being produced, or (b) can have values that are continuously variable while the image signal is being produced, a memory arranged for storing the image signal and the saliency signal in response to the saliency signal, operation of at least part of the electronic camera being arranged to be controlled in response to the complex saliency signal.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) An imaging system according to claim 40, further comprising a separate user operable picture taking control for selectively activating the electronic camera to take pictures.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented) An imaging system comprising an electronic camera for producing an image signal, a physically or mechanically operable user control for receiving an input from a user and for generating a first saliency signal while the image signal is being produced, saliency circuitry for automatically generating an image related second saliency signal in response to the image signal, and circuitry for combining said saliency signals to provide a complex saliency signal.

45. (Previously Presented) An imaging system according to claim 44, wherein operation of at least a part of the electronic camera is arranged to be controlled in response to the complex saliency signal.

46. (Previously Presented) An imaging system according to claim 44, further comprising a separate user operable picture taking control for enabling the electronic camera to take pictures.

47. (Previously Presented) An imaging system according to claim 44, wherein the first of said saliency signals can have more than two values.

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising an electronic camera having a picture taking control for selectively activating the camera to derive input picture signals, the electronic camera further including a user operable control for generating a saliency signal capable of having plural values and a buffer for receiving the input picture signals and having a capacity for the input picture signals determined in response to the value of the saliency signal.

52. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 51, wherein the saliency signal has more than two values.

53. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 51, wherein the electronic camera includes the buffer.

54. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising an electronic camera having a picture taking control for selectively activating the electronic camera to ~~derive picture signals~~ store an image to a memory, the electronic camera further including a user operable control for generating a non-playback saliency signal, and picture selection circuitry for selectively passing the ~~picture signals~~ image to the memory in response to the saliency signal, the saliency signal being capable of having more than two values.

55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 54, wherein the electronic camera includes the circuitry.

57. (Cancelled)

58. (Cancelled)

59. (Cancelled)

60. (Cancelled)